



Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6660th meeting

Tuesday, 15 November 2011, 3.35 p.m.
New York

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Moraes Cabral	(Portugal)
<i>Members:</i>	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ms. Čolaković
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Li Baodong
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	France	Mr. Araud
	Gabon	Mr. MOUNGARA MOUSSOTSI
	Germany	Mr. Berger
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Nigeria	Mr. Onemola
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland . . .	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan (S/2011/678)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan

Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan (S/2011/678)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of South Sudan and the Sudan to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Hilde Johnson, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome Special Representative Johnson, who is joining today's meeting via video teleconference from Juba, South Sudan.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2011/678, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan.

I now give the floor to Ms. Hilde Johnson.

Ms. Johnson: Mr. President, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to present to the Council the first quarterly report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) (S/2011/678). I will highlight key observations of the report and update the Council on key developments in South Sudan since its publication early this month.

In the first four months of the Mission's deployment and South Sudan's independence, it is clear that there are huge expectations from both within and outside of South Sudan for its transition into a stable democracy. The challenges are even greater.

Even with the best of intentions from its leadership to ensure that priorities and spending decisions are aligned with the needs of its citizens, the Government of South Sudan will need all the support it can get. Here, the international community and UNMISS must quickly mobilize the political will, resources and capacities to capitalize on the momentum from independence to enable this transition to take place.

As highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General before the Council today, the Government of South Sudan and UNMISS have both been in start-up mode in these first four months. There have been some notable achievements during this challenging period.

The first such achievement was the rapid response of UNMISS to the unfolding crisis in Jonglei state, which was possible, in part, thanks to the transfer of assets from the former United Nations Mission in the Sudan. We are encouraged by the assessment made by the affected communities indicating that the rapid response to the crisis helped prevent significant retaliation attacks and a further escalation of violence.

Also encouraging have been the first steps taken by the Government of South Sudan to develop broader and more representative Government institutions and a legislature, and to achieve tangible progress towards objectives set for its first 100 days. Still, concerns remain as to how the Government will address the key challenges of the transitional period in the areas of governance, corruption and political inclusiveness.

President Salva Kiir Mayardit's commitment to enacting five bills related to public financial management and accountability has been well received. The next couple of months will gauge whether the 1 December deadline is met and meaningful delivery can begin to take place. The Government's consultation with political parties in the drafting of key legislation has instilled increased confidence in the Government's express commitment to principles of political pluralism. However, the upcoming constitutional review process will be the critical test in this regard.

The most significant threat to civilians during the reporting period was faced in Jonglei state. Here, UNMISS mobilized its assets quickly to respond with a multifaceted approach of monitoring and early warning civilian assessments, daily air patrols and long-range ground patrols for deterrence, local reconciliation initiatives and political good offices. The

Government's support for conflict mitigation initiatives involving civil society and traditional leaders in Jonglei is noteworthy.

The Government has also made significant strides to neutralize internal security threats through the integration of rebel militia groups. Yet, a few remain outside of these processes, with an impact on security in Unity and Upper Nile states, as we have also seen with recent events. The prevalence of small arms from these groups is believed to have increased the scale of intercommunal violence, as witnessed in Jonglei state.

UNMISS has a key supporting role to play in the protection of civilians, but the Government retains ultimate responsibility. The efforts of UNMISS to strengthen the capacity of national security organs to deliver security and the rule of law will bolster the Government's ability to protect its own citizens. There is an urgent need to transform and professionalize these institutions in order to meet minimal international standards. This will be by far the most important factor in strengthening respect for human rights in South Sudan.

We are working closely with the Republic of South Sudan to ensure full coordination and unhindered ability to implement resolution 1996 (2011). On 30 September, I presented the mandate to the newly-formed Government. Subsequently, the Cabinet and National Security Committee met and agreed to endorse the mandate. A joint UNMISS-Government mechanism was established, co-chaired by Vice-President Riek Machar and myself, comprised of 10 ministers, the representatives of four commissioners and representatives from the Mission. The group was formed to strengthen cooperation on mandate implementation, achieve peace and security objectives, and raise awareness about the UNMISS mandate. This is an important step in assisting UNMISS in achieving the objectives of the resolution.

On 10 November, we convened our first meeting. We discussed the road map for UNMISS-Government collaboration on important mandate areas: the protection of civilians, including the military concept of operations and threat analysis; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; peacebuilding; political milestones, especially the constitutional review; and human rights. Meetings are scheduled to take place regularly, during which we will focus on

each one of these issues, as well as other elements of the mandate.

The group will oversee nationwide awareness-raising about the mandate of the Mission and the status-of-forces agreement. In that respect, I was invited to brief all 10 state Governors, in the presence of the National Legislature, at the opening session of the Governors' forum on Monday. Following my presentation, the Vice-President welcomed the role played by UNMISS and urged all officials to study and comply with the mandate. He also said that Government actors at every level are responsible for ensuring that no violations of the status-of-forces agreement occur.

In my meeting with the Ministers last week, I discussed the distressing number and scale of violations of the status-of-forces agreement, and agreed that this UNMISS-Government mechanism would be used as a way to ensure that violations are investigated, perpetrators held accountable, and all authorities fully briefed on the status-of-forces agreement to prevent future incidents.

In addition to the incidents already reported, I am disappointed to report that, on 11 November, the Sudan People's Liberation Army detained an UNMISS helicopter in Eastern Equatoria state for six hours, under threat of force. Such actions are unacceptable and greatly undermine our operations to support peace and security in the nation.

Mindful of the challenges that lie ahead for South Sudan, as outlined earlier and in the report of the Secretary-General, one should not minimize its key assets in meeting the challenges posed by the political will of its leadership, the hopes and aspirations of its people, and the resolute commitment of the international community, including the Council, to supporting South Sudan's peaceful and democratic transition.

UNMISS stands ready to support the Government of South Sudan in meeting these challenges and is moving forward to fill critical capacity gaps, especially in the areas of human rights and the rule of law, where the Mission has a robust mandate and where there is limited institutional capacity. In the coming months, as the Mission builds capacity and transitions out of start-up mode, I and my team will work closely with the new Republic towards accomplishing these objectives.

I plan to continue my visits to all 10 states of South Sudan, as well as to travel to all of its neighbouring capitals, in line with my mandate to support South Sudan's regional relations. If sustainable peace and stability are to prevail in South Sudan, good relations with its neighbours are essential.

As Council members know, the mandate of UNMISS covers the Republic of South Sudan. It does not cover border monitoring or, more broadly, the relationship between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan. From the perspective of peace and stability in South Sudan, we know that the country is dependent on good relations with its neighbours, and first and foremost its neighbour to the north, the Republic of the Sudan.

For this reason, we are very concerned about the heightened rhetoric on both sides, with accusations and counter-accusations leading to the further escalation of tensions between the two countries. As Special Representative of the Secretary-General in South Sudan, I met yesterday with President Salva Kiir Mayardit and conveyed the need for the Government to tone down its rhetoric. For more detail on recent events and relations with Sudan, such as verification of the bombings in Yida and the Guffa area, I now refer to Under-Secretary-General Ladsous for his briefing to the Security Council.

The President: I thank Ms. Johnson for her briefing.

I now call on Mr. Ladsous.

Mr. Ladsous: I thank you, Sir, for this opportunity to further brief the Security Council on recent tensions on the border between the Sudan and South Sudan, and recent reports of bombings in the border areas. I will also say a few words on the report of the creation of a new military coalition between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North and Darfur rebel groups.

UNMISS dispatched a verification mission to Yida, Unity state, on Sunday, 13 November. A joint team of civilian and military personnel, including mine-action staff, confirmed that four bombs had been dropped on 10 November. Three of these bombs exploded and one did not. The fourth bomb landed on a schoolyard but, fortunately, did not explode. According to different eyewitness accounts of the incident, the

bombs were dropped by a white Antonov aircraft coming from the Sudan.

The Government of the Sudan has denied that these bombings took place on South Sudanese territory. Luckily, no casualties or injuries were suffered during this incident. The Nuba populations that had fled the Yida refugee camp following the bombing are now slowly returning. I am also in a position to confirm that bombing took place in Guffa, in Maban county, Upper Nile state, on 8 November. At least four bombs were dropped.

Regarding reports of fighting in Kwek, in Manyo county, Upper Nile state, on 11 November, UNMISS could not verify the allegations of cross-border incursions. It confirmed that fighting took place in the northern part of Manyo county, however, and supported the medical evacuation of nine seriously injured Sudan People's Liberation Army soldiers from Renk to Juba.

(spoke in French)

As stated by the Secretary-General yesterday, the escalation of rhetoric between the Government of the Sudan and the Government of South Sudan, particularly in regard to cross-border support to their respective rebel groups and incursions into one another's territory, is extremely worrying. The African Union High-Level Implementation Panel chaired by President Mbeki has called for a meeting of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism between the Government of Sudan and the Government of South Sudan on 18 November. As the Council is probably aware, the Joint Political and Security Mechanism is a Cabinet-level bilateral body agreed upon by the two Heads of States to resolve disputes and to support the consolidation of peaceful relations between the two countries.

I would like to urge both Governments to seize this opportunity to de-escalate the current situation and move swiftly towards the establishment of the joint border monitoring mechanism they agreed upon on 30 July. Only the two parties, working together, can efficiently and effectively manage security at their common border. As stated by the Secretary-General in his September report (S/2011/603) on Abyei, the United Nations stands ready to support them in that respect.

The Panel will also resume post-Comprehensive Peace Agreement negotiations at the end of the week in Addis Ababa. In that connection as well, I would like

to urge both Governments to demonstrate the necessary flexibility and commitment and to agree swiftly on a package of measures to resolve remaining differences on financial transitional arrangements, Abyei and border demarcation. Both meetings are critical to reduce tensions, but the parties will also need to make sure that any efforts aimed at providing support to rebel groups one another's territory seizes immediately.

We also received reports this weekend of the establishment of a new military alliance of Darfur rebel movements and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North, which is calling for the forceful removal from power of the Government of the Sudan. That represents a stage in a pattern of escalation that is counter-productive. The United Nations continues to stress that all parties to the different conflicts between the Government of the Sudan and its peripheries need to return to the negotiating table and resolve their differences through political dialogue. There is no military solution to the Sudan conflicts and all military actions only endanger the lives of innocent civilians, who deserve a return to peace and stability after so many years of fighting.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Ladsous for his briefing.

(*spoke in English*)

I now give the floor to the representative of South Sudan.

Mr. Choat (South Sudan): On behalf of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, I wish to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report (S/2011/678). I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, as well as Ms. Hilde Johnson, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for her role on the ground in the successful establishment of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS). Lastly, I wish to thank all members that have contributed military and police personnel to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan. We are grateful for their support of the Mission.

As noted by the Secretary-General in his report, the Government of the Republic of South Sudan has made progress on the 100-day programme established by President Kiir following the appointment of his Cabinet in early September. In particular, President

Kiir has committed to enacting legislation on transparency and accountability. The Government is also forging ahead with its plan to establish the national constitutional review commission in early 2012. Those actions will contribute to the establishment of a fully functioning democracy, in which the Government is accountable to the people and acts in the people's interests.

The security situation in Jonglei and Upper Nile states is of course a concern to my Government. We underline that, on 9 July, President Kiir once again extended an amnesty to all militia groups. Since then, my Government has worked successfully to reach agreements with several groups, resulting in their integration into the South Sudan armed forces. Certain groups have, however, chosen not to accept the amnesty offer or to negotiate the terms of their integration into the South Sudan armed forces. We will redouble our efforts in that regard. In the meantime, the Government takes very seriously its primary responsibility for the protection of civilians and, as noted by the Secretary-General, has mobilized additional troops to the areas of greatest concern.

Recently, the Republic of the Sudan accused the Republic of South Sudan of facilitating and hosting two meetings, in Juba and Yei, for the purpose of uniting rebel factions to overthrow the Government in Khartoum. That allegation is baseless. We stress categorically that there is no element of truth to the claims of accusations brought forth by Khartoum, nor any sponsorship by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan for any hostile activities to topple the Government in Khartoum, militarily or otherwise. Moreover, as a matter of policy, we are not providing military assistance to the opposition forces operating in the Sudan.

The Republic of South Sudan encourages both the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and the opposition forces to engage in mutually beneficial discussions that will enable a peaceful resolution of hostilities and improve the current humanitarian crisis in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states.

In conclusion, the Republic of South Sudan will continue to enhance its security and the delivery of services to its citizens. We welcome the support of the international community and that of United Nations agencies.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Osman (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me, first, to thank you, Mr. President, for giving us this opportunity to participate in this meeting to enable the Council to acquaint itself with the truth, in order that it can adopt positive and objective resolutions. I should like to make five points during my intervention.

My first point is that we are committed to the peace process and negotiations to achieve a peaceful solution to outstanding issues between us and our brothers in South Sudan. Any allegations that the Government in the north is seeking to carry out military action against the south in order to occupy it are unacceptable. We are the ones who granted the south a peaceful transition towards independence, a choice they exercised in complete freedom and in a smoothly organized way.

The second point that I would like to emphasize to the Council is that, regrettably, the Government of South Sudan is continuing to support rebel movements. It supervised two meetings, at Yei and Juba, which resulted in the establishment of the Sudanese Revolutionary Front, whose declared objective is to topple the Government in the north through military action. That is further confirmed by information I have just received, to which I hope the members of the Council will be patient enough to listen. The source is Captain Hafez Hamza Abkar, who defected from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). He has affirmed that General James Oshun and Major Mattur supervised the transport of military equipment from Serjas by plane to the Jamjam area in Southern Kordofan. Those are confessions that we can provide to the Council on video, with sound, from an officer of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

The third point I want to share with the Council concerns the Yida camp. For the benefit of everyone, the camp is on a lake called Lake Abyad. Part of the lake is in the southern part of the Sudan and the other part is in South Sudan. The camp is in the Sudan, in Southern Kordofan. It is not a refugee camp at all. We should be more precise and specific, Mr. Ladsous, when we use terms. It is not a refugee camp; it is a

camp of the Ninth Brigade of the SPLA. I am not used to telling lies. I am speaking concrete facts. I am —

(*spoke in English*)

— dealing with the Council in all civility, according to the dictates of diplomacy. Even if I have to differ with anybody, I would start by saying, "I beg to differ". I never lie. I do not lie.

(*spoke in Arabic*)

It is my hope that this information can help the Council to verify the facts and not rush to accuse and condemn the Government of the Sudan of undertaking military activities or aerial bombardment of civilians. As I have said, we reserve our right to self-defence and to carry out any military actions within our national territory. I wish to assure the Council that we never will carry out any military actions inside the territory of the Government of South Sudan.

To show our good will, even though many defend false and baseless accusations about us, the same day that we were wrongly accused of bombing territories of the Government of South Sudan, there were more than 30 trucks carrying goods, including food, on their way from the north to the south at the Joda crossing. That can easily be verified. It is part of the commercial activities that we consider a humanitarian obligation, because of the need of our brothers in South Sudan for those supplies. Thirty trucks have crossed the border through the Joda crossing point into South Sudan.

I hope the Council will take into consideration what I have said and will link it to what is mentioned in paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's report (S/2011/678) about shortages of basic commodities and inflation reaching 61.5 per cent in South Sudan. That is the spirit in which we confront those who defend untrue accusations; they will only expose themselves in the final analysis, however loud their voices may be.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.